**IslandWood: A School in The Woods**



**www.islandwood.org**

**What is it? –** IslandWood is a year round environmental science education facility located on a 255 acre forested campus on Bainbridge Island.

**Contact Information** – Joan Hutchinson ([***joanh@islandwood.org***](mailto:joanh@islandwood.org)) is the registrar and the initial contact. She will direct all additional questions and help plan your class’ experience.

**Cost of Outdoor School –** IslandWood’s four-day overnight outdoor education program for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades costs $273 per student. There are scholarships available for schools with high percentages of free and reduced lunch, schools who do not regularly participate in overnight environmental education, and schools with high percentages of cultural and economic diversity.

**What does IslandWood have to offer? –**IslandWood’s goal is to provide hands-on projects and outdoor field experiences for students who may not have much exposure to natural settings normally, engaging many different learning styles and inspiring students to a have a life-long interest in environmental issues and the sciences. Additionally, IslandWood offers professional development for teachers as well as several lesson plans, with videos, that teachers can use on their own to get their students thinking about a variety of topics (<http://islandwood.org/school_programs/media/classroomfilms>).

**Why should I care? –** IslandWood is dedicated to inspiring students to understand and care about the natural world that surrounds them. IslandWood uses project-based learning and field research to learn about the environment while integrating art and technology projects into the learning experience. One of IslandWood’s educational goals is to empower students to become responsible community citizens by building an understanding of how their actions make a difference in the world. Because of this, the experience that students have with IslandWood is not just at the overnight. IslandWood builds a yearlong partnership between your class and one of its educators to help develop a service-learning project and establish a sense of community, so that the experience at IslandWood is as beneficial as possible.

**What should I take advantage of as an educator? –** Educators should be very excited to use IslandWood’s resources to inspire your students to engage with their community and make a difference using science. They have the [Make a Difference Project](http://islandwood.org/school_programs/educators/schoolpartnerships/ideas) to help teachers develop service-learning projects that integrate the information from the outdoor school experience back into their own community. IslandWood’s campus and outdoor school are great resources, but in addition they have developed arts and technology curriculum for students to interact with.